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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,030	12/02/2003	Nikola Dragov	60148.0009US01	4448
23552 7590 02/06/2008 MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
			EXAMINER ESTRADA, ANGEL R	
			ART UNIT 2831	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/06/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,030	Applicant(s) DRAGOV, NIKOLA	
	Examiner Angel R. Estrada	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5-7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5 line 4, "the electrical insulation", lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 6 lines 3-4, "in the region of contact windows", lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 7 line 3, "the electrical contact element", lacks antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guignard (EP 0 014 686A).

Regarding claim 1, Guignard discloses an Electrical contacting of a continuously moving metered material web (2), in particular a flexible flat cable, a so-called FFC, during its processing or manufacture, characterized in that at least two contacting stations (see figure 1) are provided.

Regarding claim 2, Guignard discloses the contacting , characterized in that the two contacting stations (see figure 1) perform the contacting alternately, that they are

fixed in position and that at least one buffer (see figure 1) is provided for each contacting station (see figure 1) for the metered material web (2) to be contacted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the indication of the allowability of claims 3-8 are:

Regarding claim 3, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations of an electrical contacting characterized in that three buffers of essentially the same size are provided and that one contacting station is located between every two buffers.

Regarding claims 4, 7 and 8, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations of an electrical contacting characterized in that the at least two contacting stations move together with the metered material web (7) while in contact with it, and then move back without contacting it.

Regarding claim 5, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations of an electrical contacting, characterized in that each contacting station has electrical contact elements with electrically conductive material points that penetrate the electrical insulation of the metered material web down to its conductor path(s).

Regarding claim 6, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations of an electrical contacting, characterized in that at least two contacting stations are designed as a cohesive, elongated contact region across which the metered material web or its conductive webs move along in the region of contact windows.

These limitations are found in claims 3-8, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sengoku (US 4,879,967), Caratsch (US 3,814,052), Baus (US 4,854,996), Eroskey et al (US 4,769,202) and Robert et al (US 4,102,300 and US 4,070,503) disclose a method of contacting of continuous product.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2831

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) OR 571-272-1000.

February 1, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Estrada", is written over a horizontal line.

Angel R. Estrada
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2831